



Delaware

1 school ranked



The most comprehensive guide to free speech on campus — anywhere

Because a true university education requires freedom of expression.

The College Free Speech Rankings are based on student surveys, campus policies, and recent speech-related controversies.

AVERAGE RANK

156 ▼

/257

▼ 84 FROM 2024

AVERAGE GRADE

F

— NO CHANGE

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

One Delaware school is ranked in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings. The University of Delaware ranks 156 overall and earns an F speech-climate grade.

Students at UD report low “Comfort Expressing Ideas” and high levels of “Self-Censorship,” suggesting they struggle to speak openly on campus. UD holds a “yellow light” rating in FIRE’s Spotlight database and has not adopted the pro-free speech Chicago Statement or a statement on institutional neutrality.

Reforming restrictive policies and making a stronger public commitment to free expression would help improve the speech climate at Delaware’s flagship university.

If you have questions, reach out to fire@thefire.org or visit us at <https://rankings.thefire.org/>.

HIGHLIGHTS



49% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



66% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



34% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.04:1

Across Delaware, there are roughly 1.04 liberal students for every one conservative student.

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

F

▼ DECREASED

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASED

OPENNESS

C-

▼ DECREASED

SELF-CENSORSHIP

F

▼ DECREASED

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASED

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▲ INCREASED

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O

HONOR ROLL STATEMENTS

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ATTEMPTED DISRUPTIONS

O

NEW IN 2025

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